

Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Howard Wheeler, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-2299.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-30712 Filed 12-18-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. CP96-16-000]

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Sunbelt Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 13, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or the Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the Sunbelt Expansion Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

Summary of the Proposed Project

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina to transport an additional 145,666 thousand cubic feet per day of natural gas to nine local distribution companies and one electric cogeneration plant. Transco seeks authority to construct and operate:

- 14.9 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline loop (Loop D) from milepost (MP) 1222.66 to MP 1237.58 in Cherokee County, South Carolina;
- 15,000 horsepower (hp) of compression (gas turbine) at a new

station, to be known as Compressor Station 105 in Coosa County, Alabama;

- 15,000 hp of compression (gas turbine) at a new station to be known as Compressor Station 125 in Walton County, Georgia; and
- 15,000 hp of compression (gas turbine) at the existing Compressor Station 80 in Jones and Jasper Counties, Mississippi.

Transco also seeks to uprate:

- A compressor (gas turbine) from 14,100 hp to 15,000 hp at Compressor Station 100 in Chilton County, Alabama; and
- One compressor (gas turbine) from 12,600 hp to 15,000 hp at each of three stations: Compressor Station 110 in Randolph County, Alabama; Compressor Station 130 in Madison County, Georgia; and Compressor Station 140 in Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

The general location of the project facilities and specific locations for Loop D and the new compressor stations are shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Loop D would be constructed adjacent to Transco's existing right-of-way. Transco has proposed an 85-foot-wide construction right-of-way, which includes 35 feet of its existing right-of-way. Consequently, about 50 feet of new clearing would be required in most areas. Following construction, about 25 feet of the newly cleared right-of-way would be allowed to revert to former uses and 25 feet would be retained as new permanent right-of-way.

Additional work space would be required adjacent to the construction right-of-way at crossings of roads, railroads, streams, wetlands, and other utility lines. In addition, Transco proposes to use two off-right-of-way parcels of land for staging and pipe fabrication and storage. Construction of Loop D would require about 171.9 acres, including 63.3 acres of existing maintained right-of-way. Following construction, about 45.2 acres would be maintained as new permanent right-of-way. The remaining 126.7 acres would be allowed to revert to former land uses.

Transco currently owns the properties that would be developed for the two new compressor stations. Construction would require a total of about 28.0 acres of land, of which about 16.0 acres would be fenced for operation of the

new compressor stations. All additions and modifications at the other compressor stations would occur inside the fencelines on existing compressor station property.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- Geology and soils.
- Water resources, fisheries, and wetlands.
- Vegetation and wildlife.
- Endangered and threatened species.
- Land use.
- Cultural resources.
- Air quality and noise.
- Safety.

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention

¹ Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by Transco. Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list:

- Blasting is expected to be required at the crossings of the Broad River and Peoples Creek and possibly at occasional locations along the proposed pipeline route.
- The proposed pipeline would cross a number of waterbodies, including the 546-foot-wide Broad River. In addition, several wetlands would be crossed.
- Four federally listed endangered or threatened species potentially occur in the counties in which the proposed facilities would be constructed.
- The proposed Loop D crosses the Cooperville Ironworks, a National Register of Historic Places District (District) and one of the sites that makes up the District.
- Twelve residences are within 50 feet of the proposed construction right-of-way.
- New compression at new and existing compressor stations would result in impacts on air and noise quality.

The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

Also, we have made a preliminary decision to not address the impacts of the nonjurisdictional electric cogeneration plant. We will briefly describe its location and status in the EA. This facility is in Cherokee County, South Carolina, and it has received most of the relevant permits. Its construction should begin in January 1996.

Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal (including alternative routes or locations), and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address and send your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;
- Reference Docket No. CP96-16-000;
- Send a copy of your letter to: Mr. Mark Jensen, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., 11.2, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

• Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before January 15, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Jensen at the above address.

Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor". Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by Section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Mark Jensen, EA Project Manager, at (202) 208-0828.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-30719 Filed 12-18-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. GT96-15-000]

Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.; Notice of Refund Report

December 13, 1995.

Take notice that on October 20, 1995, Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. (Iroquois Gas) tendered for filing a refund report pursuant to the Commission's February 22, 1995, Order in Docket No. RP95-124-000.

Iroquois Gas states that it received \$180,446.00 from Gas Research Institute (GRI) in payment of the 1994 Tier 1 refund. Pipelines receiving a refund were required to credit such refunds to their customers. Iroquois states that it provided credits to its customers in the invoices that were remitted on October 6, 1995. Because some of the shippers on Iroquois' system did not receive invoices on that date, shippers otherwise entitled to credits were issued refund checks. Iroquois requests any

waivers that may be necessary to permit such a result.

In addition, while the February 22 Order spoke only of credits to firm customers, Iroquois had interruptible customers that are entitled to credits. Iroquois therefore requests any waivers necessary to accomplish this as well; the amount involved is de minimis.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before December 20, 1995. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 95-30716 Filed 12-18-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

[Docket No. ER96-493-000]

The Montana Power Company; Notice of Filing

December 13, 1995.

Take notice that on November 30, 1995, The Montana Power Company (Montana), tendered for filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission pursuant to 18 CFR 35.13, a Form of Electric Tariff, Second Revised Volume No. 1, a revised Index of Purchasers under said Tariff, and a Certificate of Concurrence from Cenergy.

A copy of the filing was served upon Cenergy.

Any person desiring to be heard or to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 18 CFR 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before December 26, 1995. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies